

## Tour of Duty

**RANDY ALLEN**  
Dunes Golf & Beach Club  
Myrtle Beach, S.C.  
**Senior Tour**  
**Championship**  
Nov. 10-13, ESPN

A few months behind the desk at an industrial supply business was enough to convince Randy Allen, 45, that an 8-to-5 office job wasn't for him. A lifelong golfer, Allen joined the grounds crew at Woodbridge Country Club (CC) in Shelby, N.C. in 1973, "just because I enjoyed the game."

Twenty-one years later, he's still patting himself on the back for that career move. From Woodbridge, Allen moved crosstown to the head superintendent post at Cleveland CC. He followed that with seven years at Camden (S.C.) CC before taking over The Dunes in 1986. This is his first PGA tournament.

### THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

Robert Trent Jones moved very little dirt when he built The Dunes back in the late 1940s. Consequently, the course has a

very "natural" feel, Allen said. There are no hidden hazards. Oak trees abound, which will keep the blowers busy as leaves rain down on the course during early-November's peak foliage season.

### MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:

The Dunes' huge, steep-faced bunkers are Allen's primary concern. They will be hand-raked and watered daily during the tournament, "two things we never normally do." This is Myrtle Beach's first professional tour stop in many years and numerous superintendents, assistant superintendents and students from nearby Horry/Georgetown College have volunteered to help, Allen said.

Television cables were being buried and a media center prepared in early September. "We have a three-year commitment from the Senior Tour, so we won't have to do those things again." Allen overseeded with ryegrass in mid-September, much earlier than usual, to ensure it is well established come tournament time.

### HERB NISHIJIMA

Kapalua Resort  
Kapalua, Maui, Hawaii  
**PGA Tour's Lincoln**  
**Mercury Kapalua Int'l**  
Nov. 3-6, ESPN/ABC

If anyone knows the Kapalua Resort, it's Herb Nishijima. The 39-year-old senior superintendent joined Kapalua 20 years ago as a laborer during construction of the Bay Course, the resort's oldest layout. He advanced to irrigation specialist and assistant superintendent before becoming senior superintendent 10 years ago. Nishijima helped build the Village (opened in 1980) and Plantation (1990) courses and now oversees all three.

The first two rounds of the tournament will be played over the Bay and Plantation layouts and the final two strictly over the Plantation.

### THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

The Plantation was one of Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore's first co-designs, Nishijima said. It is largely treeless with no water features. Greens are large, some as big as 10,000 square feet, and wildly undulating.

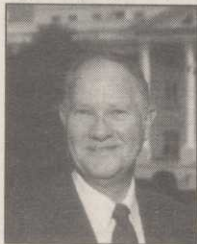
"The PGA won't let me Stimp them over 9. Even the best pros have problems putting," the senior superintendent said. Mechanical tools can't be used in the bunkers, which are often framed by wildgrass.

### MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:

"We try to keep everything as well maintained as possible so there isn't much extra to do for the tournament," Nishijima said. "We increase the frequency of everything and give the greens and tees a shot of iron the Saturday before it starts."

**BOB MITCHELL**  
The Greenbrier  
White Sulphur Springs,  
W.Va.  
**Solheim Cup**  
Oct. 21-23, ESPN/ABC

Mitchell, 64, represents the third of four generations of course managers. His grandfather, a farmer by



Bob Mitchell

trade, also cut grass at a nearby course. His father was course manager for many years at Franklin County

Country Club in West Frankfort, Ill. And his oldest son has 20 years experience in the superintendent business.

After breaking into the turf care industry under his father at Franklin CC, Mitchell worked at courses in Alton, Ill., St. Louis and Akron, Ohio before coming to the Greenbrier in 1973. Today he is in charge of all three courses (Greenbrier, Old White and Lakeside) and the grounds. His title is executive director of golf grounds.

### THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

The Solheim Cup is the female equivalent of the Ryder Cup, pitting the top 10 U.S. women golfers against the top 10 Europeans. In fact, the 1979 Ryder Cup was held on the Greenbrier layout. Over the years, mowing patterns caused many greens to shrink, some by as much as five feet in diameter.

Mitchell has returned six of the greens to their original size and plans to do the remaining 12 after the tournament. Numerous trees have been trimmed back. "The trees had grown considerably since the '79 Ryder Cup. It will give the players more room to get the ball in the fairway," Mitchell said.

### MADE-FOR-TV PREPARATIONS:

In addition to tree trimming for easier play, Mitchell trimmed other trees to provide better camera views. "We've also cleared a four-acre area for media cars and trailers. Back in 1979, a half-acre area was plenty big enough. It just shows how the game has grown," he said.



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